

Department of Environment and Natural Resources August 31, 2006 1600 hours

Divisions:

Air Quality (DAQ) Environmental Health (DEH) Marine Fisheries (DMF) Radiation Protection (RP) Water Resources (DWR) Aquariums(AQU) Forest Resources (DFR) Museum on Nat. Sciences (DMNS) Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) Zoological Park (DZP) Coastal Management (DCM) Land Resources (DLR) Parks and Recreation (DPR) Waste Management (DWM) Customer Service Center (CSC) Legislative/Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA) Pollution Prevention (DPPEA) Water Quality (DWQ)

Tropical Storm Ernesto Event Report:

Current Situation by Division:

Land Resources

The Dam Safety Program is working in the Emergency Operations Center during the event. We may be reached at 919-733-0264 or 919-733-3797. Land Quality staff in the regional offices are ready to inspect dams if necessary.

DLR has started working at the EOC. MRO inspectors are inspecting dams in counties that received unusually high rainfall last night - likewise RRO and Vance County. Contact has been made with city of Raleigh to coordinate inspection of its dams.

Marine Fisheries

Marine Fisheries is standing by. (No reported change from yesterday.)

- Aircraft is secured.
- Supplies available to secure state owned facilities.
- Has boats available: 150 boats from 14 to 135 ft. shallow draft landing craft (part of evacuation plan for the Outer Banks),
- 4 aircraft operational, 2 fixed and 2 rotary wings,
- Has 24hr, 7 days a week redundant communication capability.
- Also have 59 sworn officers.

Division of Water Quality

Raleigh Regional Office Report: Henderson had 3.5 inches of rain last night and overflows from 3 locations. The ground is no doubt saturated and we will probably have further problems from this facility if we get appreciable rain from Ernesto. Oxford had a similar storm last night resulting in a bypass at the influent pump station. The first bands of Ernesto have not yet reached our region. The city of Oxford has postponed start-up of its newly completed WWTP until the storm system has passed.

<u>Washington Regional Office Report</u>: A camp in Pamlico County had a 20 gallon spill last night. No water bodies affected. The power-lift station cut was cut off in preparation of storm. Power was not turned back on before facilities were used. Overflow resulted. Problem was fixed and cleaned up.

<u>Fayetteville Regional Office</u>: FRO is making final pre-storm preparations. No reports of animal facilities with high lagoon freeboard going into storm event.

<u>Wilmington Regional Office</u> and <u>Raleigh Regional Office</u>: There are at least two depopulated animal farms that have high freeboard. As these farms are not in operation division personnel will inspect them after the storm.

Division of Forest Resources:

The N.C. Division of Forest Resource's Incident Management Team One has been deployed to prepare for the arrival of Tropical Storm Ernesto. The team arrived at the Global Transpark in Kinston at noon today. The 15-person partial team will be tracking costs, resources and requests associated with potential emergency response and recovery. Two other Forest Service personnel have been sent to the Central Branch coordination center, in Butner, to assist with the finance sections cost tracking. If the situation worsens, other positions on the team will be filled as needed. The team will be working with disaster recovery specialists from the N.C. Division of Emergency Management and citizen soldiers from the N.C. Army National Guard.

All division offices in the potential path are preparing their facilities for the arrival of the storm. Aviation resources are being secured. Chainsaws and other equipment are being prepared for road clearing.

Division of Parks and Recreation:

Division incident command team remains activated; staff participating in daily EOC briefings; parks and operations staff on alert and in pre-incident readiness. Precautionary park facility closings initiated as follows:

Campground closings (effective at 3 p.m.): Carolina Beach State Park (New Hanover County), Lake Waccamaw State Park (Columbus County); Lumber River State Park (Robeson County); Jones Lake State Park (Bladen County); Singletary Lake State Park (Bladen County); Merchants Millpond State Park (Gates County) Goose Creek State Park (Beaufort County); Pettigrew State Park (Washington and Tyrrell counties); Medoc Mountain State Park (Halifax County), and Cliffs of the Neuse (Wayne County).

Other closings: Transient boat slips at Carolina Beach State Park Marina; Four-wheel drive beach at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area.

Ferry service to Bear Island at Hammocks Beach State Park in Onslow County has been suspended until Saturday morning. The island and the primitive campsite on the island are closed to visitors.

Potential Issue – Lake levels at Jordan, Falls and Kerr lakes are expected to rise significantly – potential for affecting state recreation area facilities (swim beaches, campgrounds, etc.) over holiday weekend.

Priorities:

- Staff and public safety
- Protection of natural resources

• Security of facilities and equipment

Operational Status:

 Division emergency and search-and-rescue equipment identified; commission officers identified; commissioned officers prepared to assist emergency management locally or otherwise.

Environmental Health:

At this time, the Division of Environmental Health staff is on standby and will provide assistance to the counties as needed. A few highlights from some of the sections are as follows.

- Shellfish Sanitation Keeping track of weather updates and will respond accordingly. Preparations this afternoon will be taken to cover computers and other equipment with plastic in case of water leaks in the trailer due to the heavy rain associated with the storm.
- Precautionary advisories for swimming and temporary closures for shellfish harvesting will be determined Friday morning when rainfall amounts are assessed.
- Onsite Wastewater OSWW regional staff is conducting business in counties as usual today, and remains on stand-by. As with past storms, we will offer assistance to any areas affected by the storm.
- Public Water Supply The tracking system is up and ready for input. The field staff will report as events occur.

Division of Coastal Management:

Staff is on standby, preparing for post-storm activities. All regional offices currently open and operational; no closings or evacuations have been ordered at this time.

Post-storm priorities will be:

- 1) ongoing assessment of coastal damage requiring permits;
- 2) gather information to establish post-storm setback lines if needed;
- 3) field phone calls from property owners seeking permit information.

Division of Waste Management:

DWM is fully operational. MSW facilities with leachate collection systems have been contacted and reminded to prepare for increased leachate capacity and emergency power supply. Field staff have checked and prepared safety gear and field equipment. Personal protective supplies and other safety equipment are ready. Local governments have been advised of our new Web page that provides technical assistance and guidance for addressing several disaster recovery

issues (<u>www.wastenotnc.org/swhome/emergencydebris.asp</u>). An 8,500 watt generator and the HWS sampling trailer are also available if a central working area is needed.

Priorities:_DWM/Solid Waste Section - Field staff are on standby until storm has passed to determine debris management needs. These priorities expected to remain during the next 24 hours. DWM DRCC Team has been notified. DWM/Hazardous Waste Section: No activity at this time, but ready to assist.

Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

Standing by for the storm passage.

Staff have taken precautions to protect themselves and their equipment. All vehicles have been fueled and are on standby. Vehicles at risk of flooding have been relocated to higher ground.

Operational Review personnel are coordinating with their DWQ counterparts in the Regional offices. They have been contacting livestock operators that may have problems with their lagoon levels.

Once the storm passes, our field personnel will cooperate with their DWQ counterparts to evaluate those livestock operations known to have difficulties and will respond to any reports received.

Departmental Situation/Priorities:

There is no change in DENR departmental priorities:

- Divisional preparedness
- Potential flooding impacts on: WWTP, POTWs, CAFOs, Dams, Erosion, Staff and Public Safety, Security of facilities and equipment.